

kobayashi1- Oshiro

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 7:59 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: speedy\_bailey@amr-ems.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB536 on Mar 22, 2017 10:00AM\*

**SB536**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HLT/HUS on Mar 22, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Speedy Bailey	American medical Response	Support	No

Comments:

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## HAWAII CHAPTER - AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

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**SB536sd1, Relating to Fall Prevention  
House HLT/HMS Hearing  
Wednesday, March 22, 2017 – 10:00 am  
Room 329  
Position: Support**

Chair Belatti and Morikawa, and Members of the HLT/HMS Committee:

I am Gregg Pacilio, PT and Board President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA), a non-profit professional organization serving more than 300 member Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. Our members are employed in hospitals and health care facilities, the Department of Education school system, and private practice. We are movement specialists and are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum functioning from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

According to the CDC, more than one-third of adults 65 and older fall each year in the United States and 20% to 30% of people who fall suffer moderate to severe injuries. Physical therapists can help in risk reduction and prevention of falls.

Physical therapists are integrated in the current Hawaii Injury Prevention plan created by the Department of Health Injury Prevention and Control Section (IPCS), in regards to fall prevention awareness and wellness programs throughout the islands of Hawaii.

The plan has already implemented evidence-based practices with physical therapists including: 1) Safe home assessments to reduce fall risks, 2) Community fall prevention screening, and 3) Community education sessions on strategies for fall prevention and exercises.

HAPTA is supportive of efforts that DOH have made in raising awareness in the community for fall prevention and look forward to future collaborations with them.

Your support of SB536sd1 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact Abi Leddy, HAPTA Elder Care Chair at (214) 883-8329 for further information.

TO: Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti– Chair  
Honorable Representative Bertrand Kobayashi– Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee On Health

Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa – Chair  
Honorable Representative Chris Todd – Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee On Human Service

DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2017  
TIME: 10: 00 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 329, State Capitol  
SUBJECT: Testimony in support of SB 536 SD 1, Relating to Fall Prevention

Chairs Au Belatti and Morikawa and Committee Members of Health and Human Services.

Project Dana, a non-profit volunteers caregivers program, is in strong support of SB 536, SD 1, Relating to Fall Prevention.

There is an ever increasing number of falls occurring by older adults each year. Many may not recover fully. 90 seniors die on the average each year, close to 2,000 are hospitalized and an alarming number of 8,700 are treated in emergency rooms.

Falls are preventable and Hawaii's community need to be more informed and made aware of this critical issue.

Please support SB 536 SD 1 to establish a fall prevention and early detection coordinator position.

Thank you very much,

Rose Nakamura  
Administrator, Project Dana

Mike Hirano  
Home Safety Coordinator, Project Dana

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Health

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair

Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Wednesday, March 22, 2017; 10:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 536, SD1  
RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** S.B. 536, SD1, which makes an appropriation to the Department of Health for a full-time equivalent fall prevention and early detection coordinator position established by Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2014.

When the elderly fall, the consequences are often catastrophic. Kupuna have weaker bones, and a fall usually means a break that requires hospitalization and rehabilitation. Falls are costly, not only financially but psychologically and emotionally. A fall can mean loss of independence and drastic changes to a person's lifestyle and quality of life.

Thus, fall prevention would seem to be a logical public health option. Indeed, programs already do exist to assist the elderly and their families to ensure that falls may be avoided. For example, Project Dana has a home safety program where professionals inspect the home for potential hazards and recommend remedies. But a coordinated effort is needed to reach a broader cross-section of the public and larger numbers of people.

S.B. 536, SD1 proposes a nominal appropriation to address this vitally important and needed program. A \$95,000 appropriation was originally proposed but blanked in SD1. This represents a small investment that could help to save thousands of dollars more by preventing falls and the resulting medical services and inpatient admissions. We believe more money is needed, but \$95,000 is a start and will be money well spent.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 536, SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair

Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2017

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 329

Aloha,

**On behalf of our kupuna, please support passage of SB 536 SD1.**

We are in strong support of an appropriation for a full-time fall prevention and early detection coordinator which will support the statewide approach to prevent and reduce the impact of falls among older adults. The position was already established in the Legislature of 2014 with ACT 153, so it is apparent that previous and current Legislative bodies are in total agreement about the need, so please support the appropriation.

Almost every hour, 24 hours a day in our Hawaii, a senior is transported by ambulance to an Emergency Room for a fall injury. That is over 8,050 per year. That is too many. The impact on our medical system is stifling and the pain and suffering of our kupuna and their families is staggering.

The early detection aspect is for expanding the awareness and use of electronic alarm devices that allow seniors to notify emergency services that they have fallen and need assistance or in some instances, the devices can do it for them, if they are incapacitated by the fall injury. Early detection literally saves lives. A funded coordinator will help bring this aspect of the legislation to fruition.

Please support passage of SB 536 SD1.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth "Annie" Valentin, MPH  
Executive Director  
(808)-282-2265  
annie@projectvisionhawaii.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Annie Valentin", written over a white background.

kobayashi1- Oshiro

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 7:49 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB536 on Mar 22, 2017 10:00AM

**SB536**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HLT/HUS on Mar 22, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This position will be very beneficial. Please approve.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 8:29 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: david@kingdonconsulting.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB536 on Mar 22, 2017 10:00AM\*

**SB536**

Submitted on: 3/18/2017

Testimony for HLT/HUS on Mar 22, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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kobayashi1- Oshiro

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 10:14 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: tjdavies@juno.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB536 on Mar 22, 2017 10:00AM\*

**SB536**

Submitted on: 3/18/2017

Testimony for HLT/HUS on Mar 22, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
T.J. Davies	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TO: House Joint Committees on Health and Human Services, Representatives Della Au Belatti and Dee Morikawa, Chairs  
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2017, State Capitol Conference Room 329, 10:00 am  
RE: SB536 SD1 RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION

To Chairs Au Bellati and Morikawa and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support SB536 SD1, appropriation for the fall prevention and early detection coordinator. My name is Paul Nishimura and I am a 59 year old resident of Waipahu. It is important that we do all we can to prevent falls among the elderly rather than deal with the resulting hospital stays and loss of mobility and quality of life the results from it.

A program that organizes all the State's injury prevention and detection resources is required to make the best use of limited funding and manpower. We must ensure that our kupuna have the tools they need to stay healthy. Those who care for them will also have some peace of mind with the knowledge they gain from this program.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Paul Nishimura  
Waipahu

kobayashi1- Oshiro

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 1:06 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB536 on Mar 22, 2017 10:00AM\*

**SB536**

Submitted on: 3/18/2017

Testimony for HLT/HUS on Mar 22, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair

Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2017

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 329

Aloha,

**On behalf of our kupuna, please support passage of SB 536 SD1.**

We are in strong support of an appropriation for a full-time fall prevention and early detection coordinator which will support the statewide approach to prevent and reduce the impact of falls among older adults. The position was already established in the Legislature of 2014 with ACT 153, so it is apparent that previous and current Legislative bodies are in total agreement about the need, so please support the appropriation.

Almost every hour, 24 hours a day in our Hawaii, a senior is transported by ambulance to an Emergency Room for a fall injury. That is over 8,050 per year. That is too many. The impact on our medical system is stifling and the pain and suffering of our kupuna and their families is staggering.

The early detection aspect is for expanding the awareness and use of electronic alarm devices that allow seniors to notify emergency services that they have fallen and need assistance or in some instances, the devices can do it for them, if they are incapacitated by the fall injury. Early detection literally saves lives. A funded coordinator will help bring this aspect of the legislation to fruition.

Please support passage of SB 536 SD1.

Sincerely,

Valerie Yontz

677 Auwina Street

Kailua, HI 96734

vyontz@hawaii.edu

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair

Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Aloha,

**On behalf of our kupuna, please support passage of SB 536 SD1.**

I am in strong support of an appropriation for a full-time fall prevention and early detection coordinator which will support the statewide approach to prevent and reduce the impact of falls among older adults. The position was already established in the Legislature of 2014 with ACT 153, so it is apparent that previous and current Legislative bodies are in total agreement about the need, so please support the appropriation.

Almost every hour, 24 hours a day in our Hawaii, a senior is transported by ambulance to an Emergency Room for a fall injury. That is over 8,050 per year. That is too many. The impact on our medical system is stifling and the pain and suffering of our kupuna and their families is staggering.

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Please support passage of SB 536 SD1.

Sincerely,

Lynn Sialana, OTR

Occupational Therapist

Dept of Veteran Affairs, Home Based Primary Care Program

office: 808 433-0224

email: Lynn.sialana@va.gov

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair

Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2017

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 329

Aloha,

On behalf of our kupuna, please support passage of SB 536 SD1.

We are in strong support of an appropriation for a full-time fall prevention and early detection coordinator which will support the statewide approach to prevent and reduce the impact of falls among older adults. The position was already established in 2104 with ACT 153, so it is apparent that previous and current Legislative bodies are in total agreement about the need, so please support the appropriation.

Almost every hour, 24 hours a day in our Hawaii, a senior is transported by ambulance to an Emergency Room for a fall injury. That is over 8,050 per year. That is too many. The impact on our medical system is stifling and the pain and suffering of our kupuna and their families is staggering.

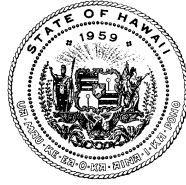
The early detection aspect is for expanding the awareness and use of electronic alarm devices that allow seniors to notify emergency services that they have fallen and need assistance or in some instances, the devices can do it for them, if they are incapacitated by the fall injury. Early detection literally saves lives. A funded coordinator will help bring this aspect of the legislation to fruition.

Please support passage of SB 536 SD1.

Sincerely,

**Stan**

Stanley Michaels  
225 Kaiulani Ave. #602  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
(808) 230-6675  
Age 75



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB0536 SD1  
RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: 03/22/17, 10:00am

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of SB0536 SD1, and defer to the Governor's  
2 Executive Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel  
3 priorities. SB0536 SD1 requests an unspecified amount of general funds for a fall prevention  
4 and early detection coordinator position, and changes the effective date to July 1, 2050. The  
5 established position referred to in this measure was funded through Act 153 with Trauma Special  
6 funds and would need to be reestablished with general funds.

7 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health recognizes the significance of falls among  
8 older adults and appreciates the funding for the position. Falls and fall related injuries among  
9 older adults impose an enormous burden on individuals, society, and Hawaii's health care  
10 system. Among adults 65 years of age and older, falls are by far the leading cause of injury-  
11 related deaths (46% of the total), hospitalizations (83%), and EMS attended injuries among older  
12 adults (81%). Direct medical charges for fall and fall-related injuries among older adults  
13 amount to nearly \$100.6 million annually, an amount that is easily doubled if we include the  
14 costs of rehabilitation and long term care. Over the next 20 years, the number of Hawaii's seniors

1 are estimated to increase by 18%. Falls-related injuries and death will also increase without  
2 effective prevention efforts in place. Falls impact the quality of life and independence of older  
3 adults. Over half of those hospitalized from a fall are discharged to a nursing facility or  
4 rehabilitation center and many never regain full independence.

5 Falls are not an inevitable part of aging and can be prevented. A dedicated fall  
6 prevention position enables the Department of Health to build a coordinated state-wide approach  
7 for preventing falls and supporting healthy aging among older adults.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.